

Sinwar's Storm Continues



Yahya Sinwar: A leader who redefined resistance ▶ Page 5

Sinwar is a martyr who has thwarted the US-led Zionist colonial project ▶ Page 5

Sinwar's novel "The Thorn and the Carnation" to be published in Persian ▶ Page 8

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The dark side of the moon: An unprecedented damage to the Resistance, an unprecedented resistance against the damage ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

Balancing diplomacy and military action

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

In a note, Jam-e-Jam examined the objectives behind Araqchi's recent trips, stating: "Araqchi's visit to the countries of the region serves several purposes. If Israel decides to respond again, there is a risk of the conflict becoming regional. The U.S. military bases are present in many of the surrounding countries, particularly in those along the southern Persian Gulf. During his trip, Araqchi emphasized that Iran does not seek to escalate the war or engage in conflict with the United States. He clarified that Iran's issue with the Zionist regime is both ideological and strategic."

He further urged regional countries, saying: "In the event of a regional war, we ask that you prevent any actions against us from being launched from the U.S. bases on your soil, in your skies, or in your territorial waters." On the other hand, Iran's Foreign Minister stressed that their priority is first to secure a ceasefire, followed by finding a political solution to the crisis.

He also noted that the economies of most countries in the region are dependent on single commodities. In such a fragile situation, a crisis that closes the Straits of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb would bring hardship to everyone. The Israeli regime, it seems, is intent on dragging the entire region into chaos with itself.

Ham Mihan: Israel's war strategy?

In a commentary, Ham Mihan discussed Netanyahu's decisive stance regarding Iran, stating: "Israeli media claim that a final decision has been made on Israel's response to Iran. Over the past few days, speculation around this has intensified. When talk of an Israeli response first emerged, the option of targeting Iran's nuclear facilities was floated. However, American officials have indicated that Israel is unlikely to strike these targets."

A potential sign that an Israeli operation is in the works is the satisfaction expressed by two of Netanyahu's far-right ministers—Itamar Ben-Gvir, Minister of National Security, and Bezalel Smotrich, Minister of Finance. Their satisfaction is particularly notable as both are vocal advocates for continuing the war. News reports suggest that various factions across the Middle East are preparing to escalate the conflict further. Following the announcement that the THAAD defense system is being sent to Israel,

military analysts have concluded that Tel Aviv is preparing to respond to Iran and is focused on addressing its defense vulnerabilities.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Drones and Western hypocrisy

Donya-e-Eqtasad highlighted the West's contradictory stance on the use of drones, noting: "When Western governments or their allies deploy drones, these are considered essential tools in the fight against terrorism and for national defense. But when countries like Iran, Russia, or China use drones, the West immediately portrays these actions as threats to world peace and violations of international law, leading to sanctions and pressure against those nations." This double standard is particularly evident in West Asia, especially when it comes to Israel. The Zionist regime regularly uses drones to attack civilian areas and kill Palestinian civilians, yet there is no meaningful response from Western governments to these actions. This inconsistency not only exposes the West's lack of moral transparency but also weakens the legitimacy of its claims regarding international law.

Sazandegi: The halt of the 'Muscat process' is inexplicable

In an analysis, Sazandegi addressed the suspension of indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States, quoting former diplomat Kourosh Ahmadi: "The pause in talks could impact Iran's foreign policy. While Araqchi's regional trips may have been useful, it remains unclear what strategy underpinned them. Engaging with some Arab countries, warning them against aiding attacks on Iran, and addressing bilateral issues are certainly positive steps. However, it's doubtful that these talks will have a significant impact on the current regional crisis, including the ceasefire in Gaza, Lebanon, and Israel's aggression against Iran." Ahmadi further noted that, internationally, there is broad consensus that the United States is the only country capable of influencing Israel's decisions. The minimum expectation for the Muscat process was that it would continue in the manner seen under the 13th government, rather than being halted altogether. One aim of Israel's aggression and crimes may be to derail the Iranian government's agenda. This should not stop the current government from pursuing its announced strategy and approach.

BRICS meeting in Moscow advances peaceful nuclear energy cooperation

TEHRAN – During a recent BRICS meeting in Moscow, senior officials from the nuclear industry of member countries signed a joint declaration in support of establishing a BRICS nuclear platform, a move that underscores the importance of peaceful nuclear energy in the future energy strategies of these nations. A delegation from the Atomic Energy Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Hossein Derakhshandeh, Deputy Head of the organization and CEO of Iran's Nuclear Energy Production and Development Holding Company, participated in the proceedings on Thursday.

The creation of this BRICS nuclear platform is seen as a pivotal step toward increasing cooperation in nuclear technology.

The platform's primary goal is to promote the development and application of both energy and non-energy nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes. It seeks to create and implement advanced practices and innovative approaches that will benefit BRICS and BRICS Plus markets.

Moreover, the platform will also focus on developing incentive mechanisms and project mod-

els to stimulate growth in the nuclear industries of member nations.

This cooperative effort reflects the growing importance of nuclear energy in the energy mix of BRICS nations. According to Russian experts who spoke at the summit, by 2050, BRICS countries are expected to supply at least half of the world's energy production and consumption. Given the rising global demand for energy, nuclear power is poised to play a significant role in meeting this demand, particularly due to its reliability, low emissions, and capacity to produce energy on a large scale.

The BRICS group, comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa was established in 2009. It has emerged as a significant force shaping global economic discussions.

Iran, alongside Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, received an invitation to join this influential bloc effective January 1, 2024, signaling a significant transformation in the geopolitical arena. Russia chairs the BRICS group in 2024.

Iran to host joint naval drill with IONS members

TEHRAN – The Iranian Navy is set to host a joint naval exercise, "IMEX 2024," with several members and observers of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in the coming days.

The exercise will see the involvement of naval forces from both member and observer nations of the IMEX Conference. It will be led by the Iranian Navy's southern fleet.

The objective of the drill is to enhance sustainable collective security and its foundations within the region, promote multilateral cooperation

among the participating nations, and showcase their goodwill and capabilities in fostering peace, friendship, and maritime security.

The event will serve as a platform for Iran to demonstrate its naval strengths and strengthen its ties with nations that are invested in the safety and security of the Indian Ocean. The IMEX Conference, known as the International Meetings Exhibition Conference, consists of a series of annual trade shows and events designed for the global meetings, events, and incentive travel sector.

'Perilous circumstances,' Iran FM expresses alarm over regional expansion of conflicts

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi, expressed alarm regarding the potential spillover of the ongoing Israeli conflict in Gaza and Lebanon into the broader West Asia region. His remarks came during his visit to Turkey on Friday, following a series of discussions in Jordan and Egypt aimed at addressing escalating tensions.

Araqchi's visit to Turkey was with the main aim of participation in a foreign ministerial meeting of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism for the Caucasus region, known as 3+3, where he joined his counterparts from Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. Notably absent was Georgia's foreign minister. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan formally welcomed Araqchi at the start of the conference.

The 3+3 foreign ministerial meeting focused on the South Caucasus region and included representatives from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Iran, Turkey, Georgia, and Russia.

The regional group was established to address issues in the area through the collaboration of neighboring countries, intentionally excluding interference from external and Western powers.

Upon his arrival in Istanbul, Araqchi



emphasized the urgency of regional dialogue, stating, "Given the current situation in the region and the ongoing attacks by the Zionist regime on Lebanon, the circumstances are perilous." He noted that these conversations were vital to fostering a collective understanding among neighboring countries about the dangers posed by the conflict, particularly concerning the displacement of populations and the risk of war expansion. During his time in Turkey, Araqchi is scheduled to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan to continue discussions on these critical issues. He highlighted the historical ties between Iran and Turkey and reiterated that today's discussions would be especially significant

in light of the current regional developments.

On the sidelines of the conference, Araqchi plans to hold additional bilateral meetings with other foreign ministers and senior officials from Turkey to discuss pressing regional matters. His recent diplomatic tour also included visits to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Oman, Jordan, and Egypt all aimed at addressing the ongoing crises in Gaza and Lebanon. As Araqchi noted, the discussions in Istanbul are part of Iran's broader strategy to consult with regional partners about the Israeli regime's aggressive actions, which have escalated tensions and created a precarious situation across West Asia. Israel initiated its large-scale military campaign against Gaza on

October 7 last year, following a surprise operation by Hamas, known as Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. The operation was launched in retaliation for Israel's escalating violence and oppression against the Palestinian people. Since the conflict began, the Gaza health ministry reports that at least 42,500 Palestinians, the majority being women and children, have been killed by Israeli forces. In addition, 99,546 others have been wounded during the ongoing assaults.

The Israeli regime has also expanded its military actions beyond Gaza, intensifying attacks on Lebanon. In recent weeks, these attacks have mainly targeted Beirut. Notably, in late September, Israeli airstrikes on the Lebanese capital resulted in the assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, Lebanon's Resistance movement.

Araqchi engages in talks with Armenian counterpart in Istanbul

Araqchi also met with Armenian Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan in Istanbul on Friday during the Regional Cooperation Mechanism for the Caucasus meeting. This bilateral discussion was part of Araqchi's agenda, which also included meetings with other participating ministers and senior officials from Turkey,

Era of European interference over, says Tehran denouncing EU statement on Persian Gulf Islands



TEHRAN – Iran has launched a fierce rebuke of the European Union, slamming it for meddling in West Asian affairs after the bloc said Tehran is "occupying" three islands in the Persian Gulf – islands that have historically belonged to Iran.

The condemnation comes in response to a joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of a summit between EU leaders and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which included statements critical of Iran, particularly concerning the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb.

In a post on X, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi declared an end to the era of European meddling in the region, stating that the EU's "divide and rule" approach is outdated and that Iran will not tolerate further interference in its affairs.

"The EU-PGCC Summit Joint Statement on Iran

carries many messages. To us, it is becoming clear that the path of respectful cooperation we offered in several meetings... is being met with European desire for confrontation," Araqchi wrote. He added, "The three islands have always belonged to Iran, and will forever remain as such. The era of European malign 'divide & rule' interference in our region is long over."

The islands have historically been part of Iran, with numerous historical, legal, and geographical documents corroborating this claim. However, the UAE has repeatedly asserted its claim to the territories, citing a short period of British control of the islands which ended in 1971. Historical records show the sovereignty of the islands belonged to Iran centuries before the UAE was even formed.

Echoing Araqchi's sentiments, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmaeil Baqaei, categorically stated that the islands are integral parts of Iranian territory and will remain so. "Using misleading concepts or repeating false and deceptive claims about this significant part of Iran's territory changes nothing about the reality," Baqaei emphasized.

Baqaei also expressed regret that certain regional countries prioritize territorial disputes with neighboring countries rather than addressing the urgent issue of the Palestinian people's suffering under Israeli occupation. He called upon those supporting the Israeli regime to cease their collaboration.

Furthermore, Baqaei highlighted Iran's commitment to its inherent right to self-defense and deter threats while maintaining regional stability. He assured that Iran's military capabilities are utilized responsibly and only for legitimate defense, adhering to international law.

Also reacting to the inflammatory EU statement, Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations stated that while European leaders acknowledged during high-level negotiations with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 79th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York that mutual concerns could be resolved through dialogue, they have surrendered to baseless allegations regarding Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"Europe is currently embarking on a misguided and perilous path vis-à-vis Iran. During the high-level week in New York and in a forward-looking approach, seven European leaders—in individual meetings with the President of Iran—acknowledged that the concerns of both parties could be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," the mission said in a post on X. "Yet, in Brussels, they have recklessly ignored international law and the UN Charter, allowing themselves to become pawns of unfounded claims regarding Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity," it added.

Iranian parliament: French paper's report of speaker's remarks on Lebanon inaccurate

TEHRAN – Iran's parliament has issued a statement refuting a recent report in a French newspaper that claimed Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf had offered to negotiate a ceasefire in Lebanon.

The Parliament insisted that the French publication misrepresented the speaker's remarks, asserting that he

did not suggest Iran would be a party in any potential negotiations involving Lebanon. "The views expressed by the parliament speaker regarding the current situation in Lebanon align with his previous statements made during the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) assembly and his recent trip to Lebanon," the statement read.

Qalibaf has said multiple times during public addresses that Iran will support Lebanon and the Lebanese people in every decision they make, as the Arab country continues to get targeted by the Israeli regime.

Le Figaro, in an exclusive interview this week, reported that the Iranian official expressed a

potential willingness to "engage in discussions with France" regarding the implementation of UN Resolution 1701, which mandates that only the Lebanese army is permitted to operate in southern Lebanon. In its statement published on Friday, the Iranian parliament said the French paper's portrayal of Qalibaf's remarks is "entirely inaccurate."

IRGC chief warns Iran's true power undisclosed as Israel reportedly plots new aggressions

TEHRAN – Chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami has stated that the recent missile strikes against Israel, dubbed Operation True Promise II, were merely a small taste of Iran's military capabilities,

Addressing mourners at the funeral of Brigadier General Abbas Nilfroushan, who was assassinated during an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon, Salami emphasized that the operation was "the smallest scale of action we could take."

"Operation True Promise II was a warning and alert," Salami stated, highlighting the "magnificent display of power" showcased by Iran. He asserted that the strikes were designed to "refine" Israel's calculations and make it clear that any attacks against Iranian interests would be met with swift and decisive retaliation.

The IRGC chief further warned that Israel's missile

defense systems are insufficient to deter Iranian attacks, stating, "Our goal was to demonstrate through action that you must adjust your behavior." He underscored Iran's commitment to its threats, warning, "When we say something, we follow through." Operation True Promise II was conducted on October 1 as a direct response to Israel's assassination of several prominent Resistance figures, including Hamas' chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Nilfroushan, who served as an Iranian military advisor in Lebanon. The operation saw hundreds of ballistic missiles launched at Israeli military bases, espionage facilities, and intelligence centers.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salami dismissed any notion that the Resistance front could be weakened by the loss of its leaders, emphasizing the unwavering determination of Iran and its allies to defend their sovereignty. In similar comments, the commander of the Navy of the Iranian Army asserted that Iran's

reaction to any hostile actions from adversaries will be surprising, measured, and appropriately timed.

Rear Admiral Shahram Irani addressed the threats posed by the Zionist regime towards Iran, stating that any aggression from enemies would be met with a response so intense that it would leave them "profoundly shocked."

The Navy commander highlighted that for decades, Iran has faced various threats, conspiracies, and sanctions, and it will persist in countering these challenges. "Responses to enemy actions will not be driven by emotion; instead, in line with the guidance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Iran's reactions will be calculated and timely," Irani concluded.

Numerous Israeli officials have said in the past two weeks that they are preparing to attack Iran or Iranian assets in response to Tehran's October 1 retaliatory strikes.

'Resistance strengthened': Iranian officials react to Yahya Sinwar's martyrdom

TEHRAN – Multiple high-ranking Iranian officials have offered condolences on the martyrdom of Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar while emphasizing that the Palestinian fighter's demise is only the beginning of Israel's end.

Israel announced on Thursday that Sinwar had been killed in fighting the previous day. According to Hebrew media, an Israeli tank struck the building where Sinwar was located in southern Gaza. While the reports show he lost his life on the same day from the injuries he sustained during the strike, graphic videos and photographs released by Israeli forces reveal that soldiers fired upon Sinwar's head

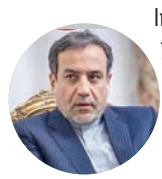


when they found his dead body.

Sinwar was murdered 'by chance' and not through a targeted assassination, Israeli media reported. The Hamas Resistance group confirmed the Palestinian fighter's martyrdom on Friday, vowing to continue fighting the regime until the 'freedom of Palestine'.

Meanwhile, people around the world are recalling previous claims made by Israeli authorities, who had asserted that Sinwar was hiding in an underground tunnel, holding Israeli hostages close to him, and wearing an explosive vest to prevent getting targeted by the regime.

'Source of inspiration'



In a message on his personal X account, Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said the martyrdom of Palestinian leader Yahya Sinwar will act as an inspiration for future generations of Resistance fighters.

"Yahya Sinwar did not fear death but sought martyrdom in Gaza. He bravely fought to the very end on the battlefield. His fate - beautifully pictured in his last image - is not a deterrent but a source of inspiration for resistance fighters across the region, Palestinian and non-Palestinian. We, and countless others around the world, salute his selfless struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people. Martyrs live forever, and the cause for the liberation of Palestine from occupation is more alive than ever," he stated.

'Painful and powerful'



In an official statement, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian described Sinwar's martyrdom as a loss but asserted its effectiveness in furthering the struggle against Israel.

"The news of the martyrdom of Yahya Sanwar, though painful for all the freedom lovers of the world, especially the heroic people of Palestine, is a clear sign of the unstoppable crimes of the occupying and child-killing Zionist regime. Martyr Sanwar was in the captivity of the cruel Zionist regime for many years during his valuable life and after that, he fought heroically until the last moment of his glorious life and did not give up.

His demise will bolster the fight against occupiers," the president noted.

'Israeli propaganda exposed'



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri highlighted in a statement that a year of Israeli propaganda against Hamas and its leaders was exposed by the martyrdom of Sinwar.

"The martyrdom of Abu Ibrahim, a valiant commander who fought on the front lines against the occupying Zionist regime, serves as a powerful testament to the unwavering spirit of resistance.

His sacrifice refutes the false narratives spread by the Zionist and Western media, which claimed that the Hamas leader was hiding in the depths of Gaza's tunnels. He proved that those who embrace the ideals of Islam and martyrdom are not even afraid to face death," the commander stated.

'Future Palestinian leaders fiercer'



Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said future Palestinian leaders and fighters will be even fiercer and more powerful than Yahya Sinwar.

"From today, the name of Martyr Sinwar stands alongside those of renowned Palestinian fighters like Ahmed Yassin and Ismail Haniyeh, who gave their lives for the liberation of al-Quds al-Sharif. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and the dream of a free Palestine will continue to burn brightly, even as the enemy crumbles to ashes," he said, adding "Future Palestinian leaders will lead the ranks of the anti-Zionist resistance with even greater strength and a more robust structure. Hamas will move along more powerfully."

Aimless debates, circular arguments, or diverting from public concerns

By Reza Nourian

TEHRAN – On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, the European Union and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) issued a joint statement at the conclusion of their meeting in Brussels, calling on the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of disputed islands in the Persian Gulf.

The statement read: "We urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its occupation of the three islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates—Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa—as this constitutes a violation of UAE sovereignty and the principles of the United Nations Charter."

In response to these repeated claims, Dr. Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, stated: "The three islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb are an inseparable part of Iran's territory and will remain so. Misleading terms or the repetition of false claims about this critical part of Iranian land do not change the reality." He emphasized that Iran, while respecting the UN Charter and principles of good neighborliness, will continue to exercise its full national sovereignty over these islands.

Dr. Baqaei also expressed disappointment that some regional countries, instead of addressing the most pressing issue facing the Islamic world, the region, and the world today—the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people and the Zionist regime's aggression in Lebanon—are raising unfounded territorial disputes. He noted that the joint meeting with EU member countries, many of which are the main arm suppliers for the Zionist regime and its primary political supporters, could have been used to hold these countries accountable for supporting Israel's apartheid regime and its actions, rather than diverting attention to false territorial claims.

He further highlighted Iran's defense capabilities, describing them as essential for maintaining the country's right to self-defense and deterring

threats from hostile and aggressive forces. These capabilities, he stressed, also help preserve regional stability and security. Dr. Baqaei reiterated that Iran, in line with international law and the UN Charter, has always used its military power responsibly, strictly for defensive purposes.

Addressing concerns about Iran's nuclear program, Dr. Baqaei reaffirmed that its activities are entirely peaceful, dismissing any doubts as biased and baseless. He reminded European countries that they are also to blame for the failure to implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) due to their inaction and inability to counter U.S. pressure during Trump's presidency.

Why does Brussels choose to spend European taxpayers' money on illegal and futile issues, such as the Iranian islands, where Iran's sovereignty is clearly established?

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson also pointed to the critical situation in the region, particularly the ongoing genocide and aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon. He urged regional countries to focus on the immediate priority of stopping the killing of innocent people and the destruction of infrastructure in these areas, and called for collective action to halt the Zionist regime's war-mongering.

A key point to consider is that the European Union, rather than addressing the extensive and ongoing crimes committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen over the past year—with the direct, daily supply of arms and consistent financial and political support from the

West—seems more focused on diverting public attention. Instead of questioning the well-established historical and legal sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the Persian Gulf islands, the EU would do better to focus on resolving territorial disputes within its own region.

European analysts and researchers continue to ask a critical question: Why does Brussels, instead of addressing the 300-year-old territorial dispute between Britain and Spain over Gibraltar, which lies within Spanish territory, choose to spend European taxpayers' money on illegal and futile issues, such as the Iranian islands, where Iran's sovereignty is clearly established?

Likewise, the occupation of the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands by Britain in 1833, located 13,000 kilometers from London, and the full-scale war between Britain and Argentina in 1982 to cement this occupation, which represents a clear violation of international law, should also be a priority for the European Union and other international organizations to address.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran offers this advice to its neighboring friends, who sometimes fall into the Western "divide and conquer" strategy: remember that it was the Pahlavi monarchy, acting under British orders, that relinquished Bahrain, a part of its historical territory since the Achaemenid era. Despite facing immense pressure and even an imposed eight-year war from some Western and regional countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran has not ceded a single inch of its land, nor will it ever do so in the future.

Therefore, it would be wiser for our southern friends and neighbors to collaborate, fostering mutual cooperation and solidarity, and to establish regional security arrangements based on self-reliance. By doing so, we can work together to improve the security and economic development of the strategically vital and beautiful Persian Gulf region.

Iran calls out Israel's 'ongoing genocide' in UN letter after regime's anti-Iran accusations

TEHRAN – In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of the UN Security Council, Pascale Christine Baeriswyl, Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Saeed Iravani, has launched a scathing condemnation of Israel's actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

Dated October 17, 2024, the letter points out Israel's perpetration of "genocide," "war crimes," and "crimes against humanity" against both Palestinians in Gaza and Lebanese civilians. In his letter, Iravani vehemently rejects Israel's claims that Iran has violated international

law, dismissing them as "unfounded accusations," "false narratives," and "disinformation." He argues that Israel's accusations are a deliberate attempt to divert attention away from its own atrocities by inverting the roles of victim and perpetrator.

The letter mentions the devastating consequences of Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, highlighting the deaths and injuries of over 200,000 civilians, including the burial of many under the rubble. Iravani condemns Israel's use of starvation as a weapon of war, noting that humanitarian aid has been blocked from reaching northern Gaza for over two

weeks. He further condemns the relentless Israeli airstrikes that have resulted in nearly 400 Palestinian deaths and over 1,500 injuries since October 9th, emphasizing the horrific suffering of patients and displaced families, including women and children, who have been denied access to urgent medical care.

Iravani also extends his condemnation of Israel's expansion of its military campaign to Lebanon, stating that the attacks on Beirut and southern Lebanon have caused widespread death and destruction, resulting in over 2,000 casualties, including 127 children, and the displacement of over 1.2 million people.

The Iranian representative emphasizes that Iran's support for Resistance groups in the region is "entirely legitimate under international law," citing their right to defend themselves against Israel's "illegal occupation and relentless aggression."

In concluding the letter, Iravani warns that Iran will exercise its "inherent right to self-defense" against any aggression threatening its vital interests and security, particularly from Israel while reiterating Tehran's commitment to peace and de-escalation. He adds that Iran will inform the Security Council of any necessary response.

Iran learn fate in 2024 Asian Women's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Group B of the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship along with India, Hong Kong and India.

South Korea, Kazakhstan, China and Singapore are drawn in Group A.

The 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship is scheduled to take place from Dec. 1 to 12, 2024, in New Delhi, India.

The championship will serve as a qualifying event for the 27th IHF Women's Handball World Championship, which will be held in Germany and the Netherlands in December 2025. The top four teams from this competition will secure qualification spots for the World Championship.

Japan and the Republic of Korea are the only teams to have participated in all nineteen previous editions of the championship.

Iran defeat U.S. in 2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian men's team defeated the U.S. 10-4 in Group F of the 2024 International Canoe Federation Canoe Polo World Championships on Friday.

Earlier in the day, Iran's men's team had lost to the New Zealand 6-5.

Iran's women's team first defeated Spain 3-2 in Group B but lost to the Netherlands 3-2.

The tournament has brought 71 teams from 27 nations together. 12 coveted spots for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu are up for grabs.

The 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships, organized by the International Canoe Federation, kicked off in Deqing, China, assembling the finest teams from across the globe in a quest for glory.

Urunov, Kanaani to miss Al Sadd match

TEHRAN – Persepolis winger Oston Urunov and defender Mohammad Hossein Kanaani will not be fit for the match against Al Sadd.

The Iranian side will meet Al Sadd in Group B of the AFC Champions League Elite.

Their absence will be a huge blow to Persepolis in the must-win match.

Persepolis sits eighth in the table with one point from two matches, while Qatari club Al Sadd sits third with four points.

Esteghlal Khuzestan beat Mes: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal Khuzestan defeated Mes 3-2 in Matchweek 8 of 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Thursday.

In the match held in Ahvaz's Ghadir Stadium, Farshid Baqeri was on target for visiting team Mes in the 26th minute, but Mes defender Mohammad Reza Mahdizadeh scored an own goal to level the score before the break.

Thievy Bifouma made it 2-1 for Esteghlal Khuzestan and Kaina Nunes scored the third goal in the 58th minute.

Behnam Barzay pulled a goal back with one minute remaining.

Elsewhere, Shams Azar and Havadar shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw in Qazvin and Chadormalu edged past Kheybar 1-0.

On Friday, Esteghlal will host Zob Ahan.

Greco-Roman wrestlers head to U23 World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling team traveled to Tirana, Albania to participate in the 2024 U23 World Championships.

Iran, headed by Hassan Rangraz, has sent 10 Greco-Roman wrestlers to the prestigious competition.

Iran had missed the tournament last year.

The Championships will take place in Tirana, Albania from October 21 to 27.

More than 650 wrestlers will compete in the event with 240 wrestlers each in Freestyle and Greco-Roman and 184 wrestlers in Women's wrestling.

Iran to compete in 3x3 Basketball World Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran's men's team will participate in the FIBA 3x3 Basketball World Cup Qualifiers.

The Qualifiers will be held for the first time in Baku, Azerbaijan on May 24-25.

Azerbaijan, Puerto Rico, England and Iran have been confirmed for the tournament so far.

The top three teams of the qualifying games in the men's and women's categories will secure their spot at the main stage of the World Cup.

The FIBA 3x3 World Cup 2025 will be held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from June 23-29.

Iran victorious over Jordan in Asian Men's Youth Beach Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Jordan 2-0 in the 3rd Asian Men's Youth Beach Handball Championship on Thursday.

The Iranian team had defeated Oman 2-1 on Wednesday in its first match.

The 3rd Asian Youth Beach Handball Championship is taking place in Bangkok, Thailand.

This marks the third consecutive time that the competition will be hosted by the Handball Association of Thailand (HAT), which has hosted the event since the inaugural edition in 2016. The championship will feature players born in 2008 and 2009.

Furthermore, the championship will serve as a qualifying event for the Youth (U-17) Beach Handball World Championship, to be held in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 17 to 22 June 2025.

Walter Mazzarri linked with Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN – Former Napoli coach Walter Mazzarri has reportedly been linked with the Iranian football club Esteghlal.

The 63-year-old is on the short-list for the role as he was a candidate to take charge of Persepolis, Esteghlal's archrival.

Mazzarri has most recently worked as head coach in Serie A side Napoli.

The coach was sacked after six wins, three draws and eight defeats in all competitions on the Partenopei bench. He has also coached Livorno, Reggina, Sampdoria, Napoli, Inter, Torino and Cagliari.

Esteghlal parted ways with Javad Nekounam last month.

Plans underway to boost Iran's gasoline output to 129m liters per day



TEHRAN - Iran's Deputy Oil Minister and Head of National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPOC) Mohammad-Sadegh Azimifar says the work is underway to increase Iran's gasoline production to 129 million liters per day by the end of the country's seventh National Development Plan (2027), Shana reported.

"Increasing the production of high-quality products by utilizing the capacity of existing refineries and completing priority projects that have higher progress is on the agenda of the National Oil Products Refining and Distribution Company so that we can achieve the goals of the [Seventh National Development] plan," Azimifar said in a conference.

"By prioritizing and using the available resources to the maximum, we can achieve the goal set for an increase in production," he added.

Azimifar stated that increasing production re-

quires increasing productivity in refineries and focusing on fruitful projects with high progress, saying: "Diversification of the fuel portfolio is one of the actions that are on the agenda. In recent years, CNG consumption has decreased from 24 million cubic meters per day to 19 million cubic meters per day, and we have neglected the capacity of CNG." The official further noted that a large amount of consumption can be reduced by preventing the smuggling of petroleum products and fuel.

Back in August, the Head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Jalil Salari said with the implementation of the gasoline quality improvement plan of Shiraz Refinery, 71 percent of the country's gasoline output will be under Euro 5 standards.

According to Salari, Shiraz Refinery is currently producing 1.6 million liters of gasoline on a daily basis which will be added to the country's Euro 5 production after the mentioned plan becomes operational, Shana reported.

Referring to the average daily production of 105 million liters of gasoline in the country, he said: "Currently, 68 percent of the country's total gasoline is produced in accordance with Euro 5 environmental standards, which will increase to about 71 percent after the addition of 1.6 million liters of gasoline from the Shiraz refinery."

Iran calls for expansion of economic ties with Tanzania

TEHRAN - Iranian Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezalchek has called for the expansion of economic ties with Tanzania during a meeting with the country's Deputy Foreign Minister Dennis Lazaro Londo, IRNA reported.

In this meeting, Nouri Ghezalchek emphasized the necessity of expanding the relations between the two countries in various fields and said: "Iran and Tanzania have a lot in common and the cultural interests of both sides paves the ways for the development of relations."

Ghezalchek who traveled to Tanzania to attend the two countries' fifth Joint Economic Committee meeting, said: "We prioritized the joint committee of the two countries, and in the new government, this is the first joint committee meeting to be held, and this shows the interest of our country in developing relations with Tanzania."

Lazaro Londo for his part said the visit of Iranian delegation to Tanzania is expected to provide the basis for the development of communication between the two countries.

In mid-March, Iranian and Tanzanian tax officials have signed the draft of an agreement to eliminate double taxation on income taxes and prevent tax evasion with the presence of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tanzania. As reported, the draft was signed by Hossein Abdollahi, director general of the Legal Office and Tax Contracts of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and William M. Moja, the acting commissioner of the policy analysis department of the Ministry of Finance of Tanzania.

According to Abdollahi, the two sides have so far held three rounds of negotiations to prepare the mentioned agreement for signing.

This agreement has various goals such as the elimination of double taxation in the two countries, the attraction of direct investment, further development of economic relations and expansion of tax cooperation between the two countries, exchange of information to promote transparency in the tax behavior of the parties, assistance in tax collection, and the provision of facilities, the official explained. The final signing and approval of this agreement will be done in the legislative assemblies of the two countries in the near future.

Tanzania is considered one of the most important countries in East Africa and Iran is taking new measures to expand economic ties with this country.

In late November 2022, Iran's Trade Promotion

Organization (TPO) held the first exclusive exhibition of Iranian products and services in Tanzania in collaboration with the Iranian Trade Center in the African country to showcase the Islamic Republic's trade and export capacities.

According to Ra'ed Mousavi, the head of the Iranian Trade Center in Tanzania, this exhibition was the most appropriate platform to increase the knowledge of East African countries, especially Tanzania, about the products, services, and technological advancements of Iranian companies.

According to Mousavi, companies active in various fields including the agricultural sector, mines and industrial machinery, construction, as well as medicine and medical equipment participate in the first exclusive exhibition of the export capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tanzania.

In mid-July 2023, Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi also took a visit to three African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

Economic experts believe that the president's visit to Africa provided the basis for increasing Iran's presence in the 60-billion-dollar economy of the African continent and will increase the level of activity of Iranian traders and businessmen in this continent. Over the past 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never given up on its principled policy towards Africa due to political and cultural commonalities, despite the sanctions, pressure, and disruptions of the West, and has always maintained itself alongside the people and countries of Africa. As reported, during the Iranian calendar years 1384 and 1385 (March 2005-March 2007), the relations between Iran and the African continent increased in terms of trade, but since 1386, the economic relations between Iran and Africa have decreased due to the economic crisis and cruel sanctions against Iran.

Surveys show that in the past years, due to the lack of restoration of economic relations with Africa, the amount of trade with the countries of this continent has remained at the level of \$1.2 billion, but according to Mohammed-Sadeq Ghanadzadeh, the director general of the Africa Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), facilitating the trade route with Africa is happening now and it is expected that the trade figure with this continent will reach \$10 billion in the next three years.

In fact, good steps have been taken to use Africa's capacity, and Africa can be a suitable market for Iranian goods, Ghanadzadeh stated.

billion liters of liquid fuel has been supplied to power plants in the seven months past from the current year, Shana reported.

The official estimated the fuel supply to the country's power plants to reach nearly 20 billion liters by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025).

Fuel supply to power plants rises 38%

TEHRAN - The head of National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPOC) says the company has supplied 38 percent more liquid fuel to the country's power plants since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) compared to the previous year's same period.

According to Keramat Veis-Karami, over 9.7

Iranian, Pakistani ministers discuss bilateral trade ties

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Atabak and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan have discussed trade ties between the two countries, with both agreeing that economic exchanges should be promoted further.

The two ministers met in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Atabak told IRNA that he and the Pakistani minister discussed trade ties between the two countries and agreed to hold further talks in order to explore ways to remove obstacles to the promotion of bilateral trade.

"Considering the historical and cultural commonalities of the two countries, we should take advantage of the strong potentials to expand trade exchanges between Iran and Pakistan," Atabak said.

The Iranian minister also said that he invited Kamal Khan to visit the Islamic Republic.

According to the official, the necessary measures will be taken to prepare an agreement to be signed between the two countries during the visit of the Pakistani minister to Iran.

He stated that the current amount of trade exchanges between the two countries is not acceptable from the point of view of both Iran and Pakistan, and considering the strong relations and common links of the two countries, the two sides are confident that they will be able to increase the volume of trade exchanges several times.

The Pakistani minister spoke with IRNA as well. He described his talks with the Iranian minister as constructive, and said that visiting Iran is on agenda of his plans.

"We had good talks with my Iranian counterpart and reached constructive agreements, and we believe that there are many remaining tasks that the two countries are determined to pursue," he said.

As announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Pakistan rose 10



Iranian Industry Minister Mohammad Atabak (C) and Pakistan's Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan (L) talk to IRNA in Islamabad on Wednesday, October 16.

percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The two countries' bilateral trade stood at 1.906 million tons worth \$1.128 billion in the mentioned five-month times, indicating also two percent growth in weight, year on year.

Pakistan was the fourth top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

In mid-July, the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, who attends the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase mutual trade.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province took part in the meeting.

Such joint meetings are held to pave the way for reviewing obstacles, removing barriers, and developing trade and economic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

The two sides make the necessary coordination to help improve trade and economic ties, exchange economic

delegations, organize joint exhibitions, attract bilateral investment, and establish joint industrial centers and retail markets.

The head of the Pakistani delegation to the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee said that Islamabad strongly supports the development of joint markets and investment, which can increase the level of trust between the two nations.

Irfan Javed added that Pakistan also calls for cooperation in the field of transportation because it can affect the livelihood of the people who are living in border regions.

The deputy coordinator of economic affairs of Sistan-Baluchestan governor's office said that Iran is keen on expanding trade exchanges with Pakistan.

Davoud Shahraki added that the relationship between the two countries is historic and long-standing.

On June 30, Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu said that facilities at two border points between the two countries have been beefed up as part of efforts to facilitate trade and trips by passengers.

"Absolutely delighted to share that to facilitate Zaireen, business community and promote bilateral trade-immigration facilities at Taftan and Gabd border have been substantially beefed up. Now almost 4-6,000 passengers can cross both points everyday," the ambassador said on his X account.

He also said in his post on X, for-

merly Twitter, that relations between Iran and Pakistan "see promising future".

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Pakistan in the first four months of 2024 has reached \$360 million, showing an 18 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

The Pakistani Ministry of Commerce's statistics show that Pakistan has imported \$360 million in products from Iran in the first four months of 2024, 18 percent higher than in January-April 2023.

Pakistan's import of products from Iran in April 2024 has hit \$73.2 million, registering a 30 percent growth compared to the same month last year.

The value of Iran's exports to Pakistan totaled \$944 million in 2023, indicating a 13 percent rise compared to a year earlier.

In a meeting between the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

Noting that Tehran and Islamabad can cooperate in different areas including pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, energy, auto parts, techno-engineering services, and electronics, he said that the ground is also prepared for cooperation on health tourism.

Hassanzadeh further stressed that an agreement for activating a joint trade council between the two neighboring countries is still in place.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce president said that the two countries have had many talks on the launch of a barter trade system while no practical step has been taken.

He called on the Pakistani government to ease visa requirements for Iranian businesspeople.

The Pakistani ambassador, for his part, referred to his country's agreement with the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi for increasing bilateral trade to \$10 billion, adding that Islamabad continues to pursue this agreement.

Tehran, Moscow discuss ways of realizing oil, gas agreements

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, in a meeting with the Russian Deputy Energy Minister Pavel Sorokin, discussed and exchanged opinions about cooperation in various sectors, including the ways for implementing oil and gas agreements reached between the two countries.

Speaking in this meeting, Jalali said: "Over the past few months, good negotiations have been held between the two countries in the fields of oil and gas cooperation, including the investment of Russian companies in Iran's oil fields and the transferring and swapping gas from Russia to Iran."

He pointed to the significant role of the Russian Energy Ministry as the head of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, saying: "This ministry, as the Russian head of the Joint Economic Committee, should take the necessary measures to hold the next meeting of the committee as soon as possible."

Sorokin, also emphasized the implementation and development of cooperation in this sector, referring to the signing of the roadmap for technical and engineering cooperation between the two countries.

He mentioned subjects such as the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), transportation, logistics, investment in new oil fields in Iran, and issues of this type as the main subjects that should be discussed in the next Joint Economic Committee meeting and other future meetings.

On October 1, Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnasser Hemmati and Russia's Minister of Economic Development Maxim Reshetnikov have called for strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

Hemmati met and held talks with Reshetnikov on the sideline of the talks between high-ranking delegations of Iran and Russia.

Referring to the increasing trade between

Iran and the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union, Reshetnikov expressed hope that this process will accelerate further.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed customs issues, Russian investments in the oil industry, the progress of the Rasht-Astara railway, the North-South Corridor, truckers' insurance, trade currency settlement, strengthening the Eurasian Economic Union, and other economic issues between the two countries.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Monday that an agreement to transform Iran into a regional transit and gas hub is a prime example of cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

"We believe that if important joint projects between Iran and Russia are implemented, they will create significant capacities for both countries to counter cruel sanctions," Pezeshkian said during a meeting with visiting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

The president underscored that the Iran-Russia partnership not only serves the interests of both nations but will also promote sustainable development, economic growth and integration in the region.

Pezeshkian called for efforts from both sides to ensure the successful execution of the joint projects.

He pointed out that regional cooperation through international organizations like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) strengthens independent countries, including Iran, Russia, and China, in their efforts to resist US unilateralism.

The Iranian president also noted that the escalating aggression by the Israeli regime, with direct support from the United States, poses a collective threat to the interests of regional nations, necessitating greater collaboration to counter such schemes.

In response, the Russian prime minister reiterated Russia's desire to enhance and

expand interactions with Iran, particularly in energy, industry, transportation, agriculture, healthcare, and cultural sectors.

In early July, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral trade exchanges.

Farzin told reporters that he and his Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, the chief bankers of Iran and Russia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint measures to be taken by the two countries for the expansion of economic and monetary ties.

According to Farzin the new monetary contract enables Iran and Russia to trade in local currencies.

He added that based on agreements between the specialized delegations of the two countries, Iran's Shetab banking system will link Russia's MIR interbank system by the end of August.

The official said that the new scheme would allow Iranian nationals to take ruble from Russian ATMs using their Iranian banking cards.

"During the meeting, the two sides finalized the requirements to connect Russia's Mir payment system to Iran's Shetab and this project has entered the operational phase," Farzin said.

He added that the scheme will further develop in the next phases to allow Russian nationals to use their banking cards in Iranian ATMs and will then enable using Iranian cards at the Russian poses.

"The second stage [involves the possibility of] paying with Russian citizens' cards in Iran," Farzin said, adding that in the third stage, Iranians will be able to pay with a Shetab card in Russian stores via an ordinary bank terminal.

TEHRAN- The assassination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar has thrown a spotlight on the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian resistance icon and exposed Israel's vicious lies against him.

The Israeli army announced on Thursday that its forces killed Sinwar in the Gaza Strip's southernmost city of Rafah.

The army acknowledged that his assassination was not a targeted operation and its troops had run across him unknowingly in a battle in the city.

The Israel army spokesperson said the forces identified three Hamas fighters running from building to building in Rafah.

Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari added that the troops attempted to shoot them before they ran inside a building.

The Israeli army published drone footage depicting what it claimed were the final moments of Sinwar in a room.

The video shows him alone there with the walls blown out from shelling. With his right arm appearing severely wounded, the video shows the Hamas leader flinging a stick over his head in the direction of the approaching drone.



Hamas has put up resistance against Israeli forces on the battlefield since the regime assassinated Ismail Haniyeh in Iran on July 31.

Hagari said the Israeli army then fired an additional shell at the building, causing it to collapse and killing Sinwar. He noted that Sinwar had only been identified as a fighter when the footage was taken.

Israel later announced that the victim was the Hamas chief.

Hamas confirmed on Friday that Sinwar was killed in combat with Israeli forces in Gaza, adding that he died defending Palestine until the last moments of his life.

Outright lies

Israel has always tried to demonize Sinwar in the course of the regime's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip that began more than a year ago.

Israeli officials and media have claimed that Sinwar was hiding deep inside Gaza's tunnel network. They have also accused him of using Gaza civilians as human shields and surrounding himself by Israeli captives for his protection.

However, comments made by the Israeli army, indicate that Sinwar was not in the hiding because he lost his life after firefight with the regime's soldiers.

Likewise, Israel's own narrative about Sinwar's assassination shows he was not among civilians and his death harmed no civilians.

The Israeli army has also acknowledged that no captives were around Sinwar when he was targeted.

In fact, Sinwar's death in the combat zone



Sinwar's death in the combat zone in Gaza refutes Israel's allegations that he was in hiding and utilized civilians and captives as human shields.

debunks all falsehoods and allegations propagated against him by the Israeli regime.

Deceit and destruction

Israel has spread fabrications against Hamas, in particular Sinwar to justify its carnage in Gaza.

The regime has butchered about 42,500 Palestinians in Gaza, including more than 16,000 children since the start of its war on the enclave on October 7, 2023. It has also destroyed much of territory.

The onslaught began after Hamas carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military attack in southern Israel. More than 1,100 people were killed in the Hamas operation and about 250 others were taken captive. Hamas freed over 100 captives in a swap deal with Israel in November last year.

Israel has sought to rationalize its brutal military campaign in Gaza and the high civilian death toll by alleging that Hamas members hide themselves among the civilian population and employ them as human shields.

At least, the assassination of Sinwar has shown that such justifications are in line with Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

Abject failure

Since the beginning of the Gaza onslaught, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to achieve "total victory" over Hamas and "destroy" it. But he has failed to make good on his promise as the resistance movement has become more popular among Palestinians and put up stiff resistance on the battlefield.

Following Sinwar's killing, Netanyahu once again vowed to press ahead with the war of genocide in Gaza until defeating Hamas.

However, his dream of destroying the resistance group has already been rejected by Israeli officials.

It was on June 19 that Hagari raised doubt about Netanyahu's war aims.

"The idea that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish — that is throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Hagari told Israel's Channel 13 at that time. He added, "Hamas is an idea, deeply rooted in the hearts of the residents of Gaza."

Speaking during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee in August, war minister Yoav Gallant also dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense" and "gibberish".

Pipe dreams

Israel is under the illusion that the assassination of Sinwar will lead to the downfall of Hamas.

Under such false impressions Israel assassinated Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Iran on July 31. But he was soon replaced by Sinwar. Haniyeh's killing not only failed to deter Hamas from initiating further attacks on Israel, but it also motivated the movement to inflict more significant damage on Israeli forces engaged in ground operations.

Israel also assassinated Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah last month in a desperate attempt to cripple the Lebanese resistance movement. But Hezbollah has intensified drone and missile strikes against Israel and killed dozens of Israeli troops since the regime launched a ground incursion into southern Lebanon on October 1.

The killing of Sinwar like the assassinations of other resistance leaders will backfire on Israel.

But for now, the Netanyahu regime is trying to shift focus from his army's failures by such heinous crimes.

Palestinians consider Sinwar as a fighter battling until the very end. They hail his indomitable courage and selflessness.

Sinwar who is believed to be an architect of the Al-Aqsa Storm shattered the image of Israel's invincibility.

Western media acknowledged that the Hamas operation had shaken Israel to the core.



Sinwar who is considered as the architect of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shattered the image of Israel's invincibility.

Le Monde wrote in October last year that the Israeli military's defenses "collapsed like a house of cards" in the face of the Al-Aqsa Storm.

Presently, Sinwar's death is more dangerous to Israel. His legacy will inspire Palestinians to send the "house of cards" to the dustbin of history.

vance and "luring these forces into advanced ambushes within some border villages"

This led to intense clashes in several villages, which, according to Hezbollah, killed at least ten Israeli troops and injured 150 others, along with the destruction of 9 Merkava tanks and 4 military bulldozers.

In addition, Hezbollah's missile force "steadily increasing day by day," has targeted Israeli concentrations in military sites and barracks along the Lebanese border.

The missiles, "including precision missiles being utilized for the first time," have also targeted "settlements and occupied cities in the north, reaching military bases deep" inside Israel.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Yahya Sinwar: A leader who redefined resistance

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- Yahya Sinwar lost his life in a confrontation with Zionist occupation forces in Gaza. His assassination indicates that he fell in battle rather than hiding in Hamas tunnels, which casts doubt on Israel's alleged superiority in terms of intelligence.

Yahya Ibrahim Hassan al-Sinwar, 62, known as Abu Ibrahim, was born in Gaza in 1962, during a period marked by repression, curfews, arrests, interrogations, and Israeli military occupation. From a young age, Sinwar felt a deep connection to the Islamist youth of Gaza.

In 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, he supported the new Arab attempt to confront Israel militarily. However, as he recounted in various interviews, he and those around him watched as their hopes for victory crumbled, particularly when Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat went to the

Israeli parliament seeking peace, which Sinwar viewed as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

In December 1987, the First Intifada erupted in Gaza, a popular uprising against Israeli occupation that quickly spread to the West Bank. The catalyst was the death of several Palestinians in an incident involving an Israeli military vehicle. Convinced it was a deliberate act, young Palestinians took to the streets to throw stones and burn tires. The following day, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, an influential leader and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, gathered his associates in the al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza. After heated discussions, they founded Hamas as an alternative to the PLO, with the aim of eradicating Israel. They drafted their founding charter, accusing the Israeli state of "Jewish Nazism."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The dark side of the moon: An unprecedented damage to the Resistance, an unprecedented resistance against the damage

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - Western officials and media outlets have sought to portray the assassination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar by Israel as a significant triumph.

This pattern has repeated itself since Israel launched war on Gaza in October 2023; every setback suffered by the Axis of Resistance has been met with triumphant pronouncements from the West. Yet, a crucial twist in the story remains largely unacknowledged—the "dark side of the moon," so to speak: the Resistance's resilience and ability to adapt, often even expanding its activities despite the damage inflicted.

The culmination of this pattern emerged in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. The news sent shockwaves through the Resistance network. The impact was so profound that even the most sceptical military analysts believed the Resistance had been paralyzed, its morale and fighting capacity severely compromised. This was perceived as the ideal opportunity for the Israeli army and its allies to deliver a decisive blow and eliminate the Resis-

tance from southern Lebanon.

However, the scene in southern Lebanon the very next day painted a starkly different picture. What initially appeared to be a series of chaotic, desperate attacks by leaderless fighters, seemingly driven by rage, was revealed in the days that followed to be a carefully calculated strategy. These attacks were a precisely planned manoeuvre, navigating the Resistance along a treacherous, cliff-lined path towards the next stage of escalation.

Since then, the drastic failure to undermine Resistance's capacities has driven the Israeli army to employ increasingly fanatical tactics, including air strikes against expanded civilian urban areas and ground invasions of border villages coupled with massive destructions using tons of explosives. With the heavy logistical and manpower losses from the latter fueling the intensity of the former, a circle of legally justified retaliation by Hezbollah of the war crimes committed by the Israeli side was created, bringing occupied urban areas deep inside Israel into the battlefield — "a new stage in tensions", as Hezbollah described.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Sinwar is a martyr who has thwarted the US-led Zionist colonial project

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- Benjamin Netanyahu and his colonial regime's pillars were surprised that the fighter who humiliated its soldiers in Rafah, facing tanks and drones, and then was martyred during the battle, was Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of the glorious "Operation Al Aqsa Flood" on 7 October 2023.

Sinwar was the Palestinian knight they had spent a year pursuing in vain, fabricating false narratives about him taking cover in a tunnel surrounded by their Zionist colonial prisoners of war as "human shields".

Yahya Sinwar, a heroic fighter on the battlefield, like his resistance comrades, without the privileges of leaders, has eventually ascended as a martyr, a hero until his last breath, leaving behind the prisoner exchange deal in the unknown.

In the midst of a fierce confrontation with the Zionist eradication project and the racist genocidal mentality, Sinwar who is the engineer of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" will be remembered as one of the heroes who have changed the face of the region and the world.

Sinwar spent 24 years in Israeli occupation prisons. He was released during the "Free Men's Deal" in 2011 (he was sentenced to 4 life sentences). Before he was elected as the head of Hamas in Gaza, he was at the top of the leadership of the "Al-Qassam Brigades" and its representative in the Hamas Political Bureau.

During his captivity, he delved into the search for the most effective ways to weaken the occupation colonial entity. After his release, he turned Hamas into a strong ally of the forces of the axis of resistance. They trusted him and

he trusted them, certain that the final word in the confrontation he has lunched would not be closed except with a pivotal historic victory.

The daily crimes committed by the occupation give the people of Gaza more certainty that their fate is victory or martyrdom. After Sinwar, the resistance will continue to prove that the Palestinian cause will not fall no matter the cost. As in previous experiences, the martyrdom of the leader will only make our nations stronger.

Without Sinwar's conditions, it will not be easy to reach a swap deal to return the Zionist prisoners of war, knowing that the conditions of Sinwar's successor will only be more complicated and difficult.

Given his work in the Hamas military apparatus and the apparatus' reliance on Iranian support, Sinwar was in constant contact with Tehran. He worked hard to strengthen his resistance's relationship with Iran, which provided it with all means of strength, training and confrontation, diplomatic and military.

Meanwhile, the confrontation with the Israeli aggression on the Lebanese border continue. The Israeli enemy army is suffering heavy losses in its equipment and number of officers and soldiers, whereby Hezbollah's missiles are successfully and effectively reaching its locations deep inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

Gaza — like Lebanon — will prove the US-led war will fail to achieve any minor political or military achievements. The more time passes, the greater the cost of continuing the war both Washington and its proxy "Israel" would pay. This in itself will be the "Sinwar curse" that will humiliate every aggressor against Gaza and its legendary steadfast people.

Hezbollah announces new phase of military confrontation with Israel

"55 Israeli soldiers dead and over 500 wounded"

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has announced "the transition to a new and escalating phase in the confrontation with the Israeli enemy".

In a statement issued by Hezbollah's Operations Room, the new military strategy is based on directives by the movement's "leadership" and "will be reflected in the developments and events of the coming days."

According to the statement, Hezbollah is "inflicting heavy losses on the Israeli enemy's army in terms of personnel and equipment, including officers and soldiers, across the confrontation lines in southern Lebanon and reaching [enemy] positions deep within occupied Palestine (Israel)."

Touching on the ground operations at the Lebanese border, the statement pointed out

that "the Israeli enemy's army has deployed five military divisions consisting of more than 70,000 officers and soldiers, along with hundreds of tanks and military vehicles."

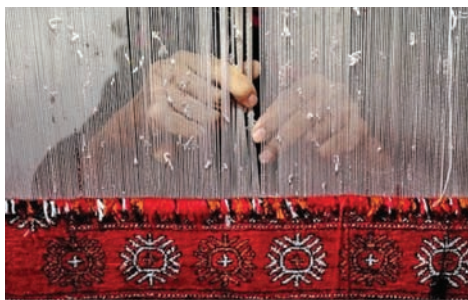
"In contrast, hundreds of Hezbollah resistance fighters have been fully prepared and ready to counter any Israeli ground incursion toward the villages of southern Lebanon."

Elaborating further on the ground engagements, the statement noted there has been an "escalation in the heroic [Hezbollah] confrontations" over the past week.

Israeli forces, have advanced from several directions in the eastern and western sectors towards seven villages "backed by heavy fire cover from the air force and artillery."

However, Hezbollah says with "pre-prepared field plans" its fighters confronted Israeli forces by targeting their paths of ad-

Glimpses of carpet weaving in Khorasan Razavi province



TEHRAN – Carpet weaving in Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province in north-east Iran, dates back to the Safavid Dynasty, as documented historical records suggest.

Arrays of unique weaving techniques, designs, and dyeing methods established during that period have endured to the present day.

During the Safavid era, the expansion of Mashhad and other cities under Safavid rule increased the demand for carpets, making handmade carpet weaving a significant contributor to the economic development of the time.

In addition to Tabriz, other major centers of carpet weaving during the Safavid period included Hamedan, Shushtar, Kashan, and Herat.

Moreover, according to Visit Iran, Khorasan carpets were so renowned that out of the 21 caravanserais in Isfahan, one was exclusively dedicated to the sale of Khorasan and Herat carpets.

Following the decline of the Safavid Dynasty, the exact timeline for the revival of carpet weaving in Mashhad is unclear. How-

ever, some sources suggest that it was likely revived by Nader Shah during the Afsharid reign, as Mashhad was the capital of Iran at the time (between 1736 and 1796).

Despite limited evidence from the early Qajar period, Khorasan maintained its position as a key center for carpet weaving.

The oldest known Khorasan carpet, housed in the Astan Quds Razavi Complex, dates back to the Safavid period. This exquisite 34-meter masterpiece features floral stems, leaves, and spiral motifs, with some sections woven using silver threads.

The carpet's field is red, and its borders are blue, with an estimated age of around 160 years, aligning with the history of carpet weaving in Mashhad.

A distinct "central motif" dominated the designs of Khorasan carpets in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Decorative elements were concentrated in the center of the carpet, leaving the field largely empty as a contrasting element.

However, between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a shift occurred, and carpets featuring repeated motifs covering the entire field became more common. These designs often included flower vases, either facing upward or downward.

All the pigments used in Khorasan carpets are derived from natural sources, including shades of pink, red, light chestnut, blue, green, yellow, and white. The use of these vibrant, herbal dyes, combined with intricate design elements, continues to distinguish Khorasan carpets as a symbol of Iran's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

Archaeologists uncover 5,000-year-old royal tomb in central China

Archaeologists in China have uncovered a 5,000-year-old tomb believed to belong to a prehistoric king in the Wangzhuang ruins, located in central China's Henan Province.

This extraordinary discovery features more than 350 burial artifacts. The site, believed to be the capital of a prehistoric kingdom, has generated significant interest due to the tomb's size, the wealth of artifacts, and evidence of cultural exchanges between various ancient societies.

The tomb, designated M27, is located in the Wangzhuang ruins in Yongcheng city and dates back to the middle and late periods of the Dawenkou Culture (4000 BC-2600 BC), a Neolithic culture in ancient China.

It measures between 4.52 to 4.8 meters in length and 3.47 to 3.68 meters in width, making it one of the largest tombs discovered from this period.

The burial site includes both inner and outer coffins and covers an impressive 17 square meters, a substantial size for the era.

According to Zhu Guanghua, associate professor at Capital Normal University and one of the lead archaeologists involved in the excavation, "The latest discovery indicates that the Wangzhuang ruins are not an ordinary settlement, but rather the capital of a prehistoric kingdom."

The tomb was filled with over 100 pieces of pottery, nearly 200 jade ornaments, bone tools, and animal remains, including pig mandibles, symbolizing wealth in that era.

Archaeologists were particularly excited by the evidence of cultural fusion uncovered at the site. Li Xinwei, deputy director of the Institute of Ancient History at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said: "Its discoveries testify to the initial exchanges of early Chinese civilization, providing evidence for the nature of diversity within Chinese civilization."

This site offers important examples for studying cultural fusion across different prehistoric regions."

Artifacts found at the site suggest influences from both the eastern and central regions of ancient China, as well as from the Yangtze River basin, indicating that the Wangzhuang inhabitants engaged in a wide array of cultural exchanges.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the tomb is the evidence of intentional destruction, possibly by rival forces, shortly after its construction.

Zhu noted that many of the tomb's significant artifacts were looted, and the skeletal remains of the tomb owner had been severely disturbed, with only a few toe bones remaining.

Several jade ornaments were scattered in and around the coffin, and many ceremonial stone blades were found deliberately broken.

Researchers are continuing to investigate the reason for the destruction of the tomb and its artifacts.

(Source: Archaeology News)

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Kasbah of Algiers

The Kasbah is a unique kind of medina or Islamic city. It stands in one of the finest coastal sites on the Mediterranean, overlooking the islands where a Carthaginian trading post was established in the 4th century BC.

According to UNESCO, the Kasbah of Algiers is an outstanding example of a historic Maghreb city having had extensive influence on town planning in the western part of the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa.

Indeed, located on the Mediterranean coast, the site was inhabited at least from the 6th century BC when a Phoenician trading post was established there. The term Kas-

bah, which originally designated the highest point of the medina during the Zirid era, today applies to the ensemble of the old town of El Djazair, within the boundaries marked by the ramparts and built at the end of the 16th century, dating back to the Ottoman period.

In this living environment where nearly 50,000 people reside, very interesting traditional houses, palaces, hammams, mosques and various souks are still conserved, the urban form of which bears witness to an effect of stratification of several styles in a complex and original system that has adapted remarkably well to a very hilly and uneven site.

European cyclists promote peace, echo Iran's safety, official says

TEHRAN – Iran is currently hosting a group of European motorcyclist tourists, known as "international peace ambassadors," in a symbolic event that reflects the country's high level of security and hospitality on the global stage, a tourism official has said.

Their journey through Iran, which began on October 12 and will conclude on October 21, involves 16 motorcyclists from various European countries, including Spain, Italy, and Portugal, Moslem Shojaei added on Thursday.

Shojaei, who presides over the marketing and foreign tourism development at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, noted that the motorcyclists entered Iran from the Turkish border as part of a transcontinental tour from Italy to Kathmandu, Nepal.

He further emphasized that the visit aligns with the UN Tourism's 2024 theme of "Tourism and Peace," underscoring Iran's peaceful environment and hospitality.

Since their arrival, the car-



van has visited several cities and towns, including Urmia, Marivan, Uramanat Takht, Paveh, and Kermanshah, before heading toward Lorestan and Doroud.

"From there, the group continued through Markazi province and made stops in Khansar and Isfahan. A formal reception was organized in Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Square to honor the visitors."

Following their time in Isfahan, the tourists will journey to Kerman and Bam before heading to Zahedan. They will exit Iran via

the Taftan border and continue their journey into Pakistan, the official said.

Shojaei highlighted the importance of the tour, noting that the 12,000-kilometer journey aims to promote global peace while also showcasing Iran's safety and welcoming atmosphere.

"In today's climate, when certain media outlets and countries attempt to project an image of insecurity in Iran, this event sends a clear message: Iran is a safe destination, fully prepared to host international tourists," he

stated.

Moreover, the official emphasized that the motorcyclists, traveling across Iran by road with their personal vehicles, act as ambassadors of goodwill. "Their presence here demonstrates the highest level of security in the country, dispelling misconceptions and encouraging others to visit Iran," Shojaei said.

Earlier in September, the tourism minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri called for extra efforts to change some global perceptions of Iran. "We must break the lock of Iranophobia," he stated.

"Iran is secure, but [a number of Western] media outlets are spreading a perception of insecurity. This challenge requires a unified effort across all sectors."

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 28 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Construction of a massive mudbrick structure started in Esfahak

TEHRAN – In the historical and touristic village of Esfahak, located in Tabas county of South Khorasan province, a massive mudbrick structure is currently under construction, marking a significant step in the preservation and revival of traditional architecture.

The project aims to explore the potential of mudbrick structures in modern architecture while utilizing entirely organic materials, Tabas's tourism chief said on Thursday.

Mohammad Arab announced that the structure, which includes a 9-meter-wide and 7-meter-high arch, is being built without the use of industrial materials.

The project is a collaborative effort between Esfahak's local architecture research center, known as E.M.C., and the village community, blending scientific research with traditional building expertise, the official explained.

Arab emphasized that the structure is a 100% environmentally friendly project, relying solely on mud and bricks. It will represent Iran in a 120-minute documentary showcas-

ing traditional architecture alongside examples from France and Austria.

Moreover, the official highlighted the significance of mudbrick in Iranian architecture, particularly given the country's central desert plateau, which is surrounded by mountains and covered largely by soil, sand, and stone.

Iran's architectural history is filled with extraordinary designs utilizing mud and bricks in aesthetically impressive structures. Arab noted that the rush towards modernity and the adoption of non-native materials have harmed natural habitats, and projects like this aim to restore harmony between architecture and the environment.

Esfahak, which won a TO-DO Award in 2020 from the German Institute for Tourism and Development, is on a path toward global recognition for its preservation of cultural heritage. The village's historical texture is registered on Iran's National Heritage List, and the community has actively participated in restoring traditional homes, reviving old crafts, and promoting local customs.



The ancient village boasts a mild climate ideal for crop growth, presenting lush scenery nearly everywhere you look. Its houses typically feature domed roofs and small windows.

According to local tourism officials, the original essence of Esfahak was tragically altered by a 7.4 earthquake in 1978. Following the quake, a new village was constructed adjacent to the old one, which had been heavily affected. Today, with the active involvement of the locals, the refurbished village has been transformed into a tourist destination with plentiful eco-lodge units.

Archaeologists unlock secrets of ancient civilization in Turkmenistan

Large-scale archaeological research continues in the Karakum desert at the ancient site of Gonur-Depe. This unique monument, discovered in 1972, is the key to unlocking the mysteries of the ancient civilization Margush, which flourished in the delta of the Murghab River about four millennia ago.

The Turkmen-Russian Margush Archaeological Expedition, operating under the international agreement, is nearing the end of another field season. The scientists uniting specialists from the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences,

the Institute of History of Material Culture of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and Turkmen researchers continue painstaking work to study and describe numerous artifacts found at this ancient settlement.

The excavation season brought some interesting findings. Among them, a miniature cylindrical seal made of talc-agalmatolite, a fragment of a clay bulla with imprints of a snake-shaped seal, and a unique clay lid from a vessel with imprints of a rope and a cloisonné seal stands out.

Of particular interest are sets of semi-precious stone beads found in

five burials. The skill of ancient jewelers has astonished modern researchers—some lapis lazuli beads have a diameter of only 1 millimeter.

Archaeologists have also conducted research aimed at studying the technologies of ancient builders. For the first time, a gypsum kiln was described in detail, making it possible to reconstruct the technological process of producing building materials in ancient Gonur-Depe.

The results of these studies will be presented at an international scientific conference in Ashgabat, where scientists from different

countries will discuss the discoveries and their significance as regards understanding the history of the ancient civilization of Margiana.

The discoveries made in Gonur-Depe not only shed light on the life of the ancient inhabitants of these places but also emphasize the importance of international cooperation in archaeology and history. Each discovery brings us closer to understanding the rich cultural heritage left by an ancient civilization in the heart of the Karakum desert.

(Source: The Times of Central Asia)

Greece's tourism success tied to expanding U.S. and Asian markets

Greece's tourism is considered successful and generally competitive with other Mediterranean destinations however its further growth will depend on tapping into new markets, like the U.S., China, and India according to a Mabrian report.

The report, titled "GREECE OUTLOOK: DATA INSIGHTS TO FIND THE EDGE AMONG MEDITERRANEAN COMPETITORS," compares Greece with Italy, Spain, Croatia, and Turkey.

Its findings reveal that travelers to these destinations are becoming increasingly demanding, expecting high-quality travel experiences while also seeking authenticity.

Greece's ranking in visitor satisfaction stand relatively high at 52.40% surpassing Spain

(50%), but slightly behind Italy (54%) and Turkey (52.60%) with Croatia being in the lead with 57%.

Therefore, enhancing traveler experiences in Greece aligning with current trends could improve this figure according to Mabrian's analysis.

Exploring what tourists seek in Greece the study's data reveal motives for visiting the country are evolving, reflecting global and European trends which focus more on active and wellness-orientated experiences.

Traditionally a destination sought after for its sun, beautiful beaches and rich culture, Greece is now strengthening its position as a hub for active tourism.

In fact, in 2023, 21.1% of visitors chose Greece for active lifestyle experiences, marking a significant increase of 12.1% compared to 2019, which has made active tourism the primary reason for visiting the country, followed by cultural tourism and the classic "sun and sea" motive.

According to the report the strategic goal should be to further diversify these tourism motivations, which in turn would not only help address seasonality and attract attention to alternative destinations but also boost tourists' loyalty promoting return visits, while attracting travelers from new markets.

(Source: tovima.com)

Iran's health sector a role model in the region: WHO official

TEHRAN –The World Health Organization's (WHO) director for the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) has called Iran's health sector a role model in the region.

WHO EMRO is interested in expanding cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRNA quoted Hanna Hasan Balkhi as saying.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with Alireza Raeisi, the Iranian deputy health minister, and Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, the deputy health minister for international affairs, on the sidelines of the Seventy-first session of the WHO EMRO.

A delegation led by Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi participated in the seventy-first session of the WHO EMRO which was held in Doha, Qatar, from October 14 to 17.

"During my short visit to Iran a few months ago, I became familiar with the capabilities of Iran in the health sector; Iran is a role model in health in the region," Balkhi noted.

"Utilizing full potentials available in the [regional] countries is essential for us, and we will not hesitate to support the implementation of health programs," the official noted.

Raeisi, for his part, enumerated priorities in the country's health sector, namely completing the implementation of the family physician program and the electronic health record program.

Referring to non-communicable diseases as another import-



ant issue in the health sector, the official said, "Unfortunately, due to the crises in West Asia, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases has increased, and the onset age of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and obesity has lowered.

WHO EMRO is interested in expanding cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Therefore, we are planning to control the risk factors from childhood through old age. To achieve the goal, we need to develop plans in cooperation with the World Health Organization."

EMRO annual meeting

The annual meeting of the

member countries of EMRO is one of the most important regional events in which Ministers of health and high-level representatives of the 22 Member States and territories of WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, as well as representatives of partner organizations and civil society, will meet to discuss priority public health issues, make decisions, and regulations.

During the session, Balkhi was scheduled to present her regional vision for the endorsement of Member States. The vision, which aims to secure the best attainable level of health for everyone in the region, includes 3 flagship initiatives: expanding timely and equitable access to life-saving medicines and vaccines; building a more resilient health workforce, and reducing the morbidity, mortality, and social costs associated with substance use disorders.

The Regional Strategic Operational Plan describes what WHO aims to achieve in the coming 4 years in response to country pri-

orities, and how it will do it.

The Regional Committee also included discussions of priority public health issues, technical papers, updates, and a wide range of panel discussions and side events.

Addressing the seventy-first session of WHO EMRO, Raeisi called on the WHO to establish a working group to address the impacts of unilateral coercive measures on health in the region and to develop possible solutions consistent with basic human rights.

The official further noted coercive sanctions have denied nations the right to access essential medicines and medical tools.

He also highlighted the significance of sharing precise data as well as having a collective commitment to universal health coverage to overcome the challenges in the region.

"To promote regional health, it is essential to identify the capacities, capabilities, and successful strategies in the region," Raeisi noted.

The official also underscored the importance of political and social leaders' commitments to public health, strengthening the global leadership of the World Health Organization, recognizing health as the basic 'public good', ensuring equal access to health for all countries, and enhancing the role of the World Health Organization in facilitating the share of knowledge and technology to all member states regardless of any political and economic barriers.

Acting together for just, peaceful, and inclusive societies

TEHRAN - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed annually on October 17. This year's theme is "Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment, Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies."

Poverty has multiple dimensions, some visible and others hidden, but all interlinked. This year's theme highlights one of the hidden dimensions of poverty, which is the social and institutional maltreatment experienced by people living in poverty, and considers ways to act together on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) 16 to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

People living in poverty face negative attitudes. They are stigmatized, discriminated against, judged for example by their appearance, accent, address - or lack of it, blamed for their situation, and treated with disrespect.

Social maltreatment creates a setting for institutional maltreatment, with a combination of negative attitudes, like mistrust and disrespect, as well as controlling discriminatory policies and practices, denying people of their fundamental human rights, for example, access to healthcare, education, housing, and the right to legal identity.

Social and institutional maltreatment interact and amplify each other, fueling this



double-edged violence and deepening the injustice, and this is more pronounced for people who face other forms of prejudice as well, including gender, sexual orientation, race, or ethnicity.

The World Bank has defined absolute poverty based on a daily income of \$2.15 per person.

A meaningful understanding of poverty and how the different forms of violence and domination interact with each other and impact people in poverty is critical.

Daily experiences of injustice and dehumanization undermine self-esteem, destroy

personal agency, denies people their dignity and the chance of getting out of poverty. Social and institutional maltreatment is a catastrophic loss of human potential to society.

Removing poverty in Iran

Through launching poverty-removal plans, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to reduce the "absolute poverty" rate to less than half a percent and improve the "general welfare" and "economic development" indicators.

According to the World Bank, about 60 percent of the villagers and 30 percent of the urban residents of Iran, that is, approximately 46 percent of the total population of Iran in 1977, were below the poverty line.

However, from 1986 to 2018, the population below the poverty line in the country has decreased from 44.2 percent to about 14 percent.

The World Bank has defined absolute poverty based on a daily income of \$2.15 per person (based on the Purchasing Power Parity Index at constant prices in 2017), and this figure is the minimum amount that a person needs to meet the basic needs of his life.

The increase in life expectancy in the country is one of the results of improving the productivity of the health system, so the life expectancy in the country is now 75 years, while this figure was 56 years before the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Tehran to host autism conference

The 4th conference on autism disorder with a theme of empowering human resources and families will be held in Tehran on February 20.

The event is organized by the Charity Foundation for Special Diseases in cooperation with the Special Education Organization, the Ministry of Health, the Welfare Organization and the Health Psychology Association.

Empowering human resources, discussing academic topics revolving around autism, and describing the parent's role in promoting and improving the autistic patient's condition will be among the subjects to be discussed in the conference.

برگزاری همایش اوتیسم در تهران

چهارمین همایش «اوتیسم، توانمندسازی نیروی انسانی و خانواده» اول اسفند ماه در تهران برگزار می‌شود.

این همایش توسط بنیاد امور بیماری‌های خاص و با مشارکت سازمان آموزش و پرورش استثنایی، وزارت بهداشت، سازمان بهزیستی، و انجمن روان‌شناسی سلامت ایران برگزار می‌شود.

محورهای این همایش، وضعیت منابع انسانی و سرفصل‌های دانشگاهی حوزه اوتیسم در ایران و نقش والدین در ارتقاء و بهبود وضعیت افراد با اختلالات طیف اوتیسم است.

WFP releases September report on Iran

TEHRAN –The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of September.

In September, WFP food assistance reached 33,041 beneficiaries, which included Afghan and Iraqi refugees as well as Iranian teachers. Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket which includes fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person per month).

In addition to this in-kind food assistance, WFP provides cash assistance to 7,347 Afghan and Iraqi refugee households each month. In September, households headed by refugee men received Iranian Rials (IRR) of 2.5 million (US\$ 5.5, according to the UN Operational Rate) per person.

Households headed by refugee women received a slightly higher monthly cash allocation, amounting to IRR 3 million (US\$ 6.6) per person due to limited access to working opportunities, leading to higher food insecurity.

To maintain beneficiaries' purchasing power amid deteriorating economic conditions, since June 2023, WFP has increased its cash assistance to vulnerable refugee women and men facing serious risks over their food security and well-being.

WFP's school-based program, supporting a total of 9,000 refugee school children including their teachers with snacks, and providing cash incentives for school education to around 3,000 girls at primary schools and junior high schools, was paused for July, August, and September due to summer school break.

By September 2024, WFP Iran helped ease the financial burden associated with the gluten-free dietary needs of 52 refugee celiac patients from WFP's beneficiaries by providing them with an extra cash amount of 7.7 million rials (US\$ 17.55) per person as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.

To support the income generation and resilience of 251 refugees (39 percent women and 61 percent men), in September, WFP continued supporting the operations of 20 livelihood activities across 17 settlements, including welding, tailoring, baking, and farming.

Following WFP's Disability Inclusion Workplan 2023, WFP implemented a pilot initiative in two settlements, Shahid Naseri of Markazi and Mohajerin of Semnan provinces, providing refugees with disabilities a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1.5 million (US\$ 3.3) on top of their regular entitlement.

In September, the program expanded to include Kerman province in addition to Lorestan, West Azarbaijan, Fars, Khuzestan, Markazi, and Semnan provinces, raising the total number of beneficiaries assisted from 128 in August to 211 in the September program across seven refugee settlements.

WFP Iran's Budget Revision of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) was approved in September, leading to adjustments in the Needs Based Plan (NBP). Due to evolving circumstances including the suspension of two planned new refugee settlements to accommodate displaced persons from Afghanistan, the revision made changes as follows.

** Reduced the total planned number of beneficiaries from 52,000 to 35,000.



** Extended the duration of ICSP by two years, now covering April 2023 to December 2027, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF) duration.

The total ICSP budget has increased by USD 5.8 million, bringing it to USD 42.82 million, to account for these adjustments and the plan's extended timeline.

On April 3, the WFP released its 2023 report on Iran based on the interim Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025). The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the past four decades. According to the report, roughly 4.5 million Afghans live in Iran.

Around 33,000 of the most vulnerable documented refugees live in 20 settlements in 13 provinces of Iran. WFP's response in Iran focuses on addressing the food security needs of the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements.

WFP provides food, education, and livelihood assistance through a hybrid modality of in-kind food, unconditional cash, and capacity strengthening to refugees. In 2023, WFP Iran was able to secure more than 75 percent of its funding and address the daily food requirements of around 33,000 vulnerable refugees.

In addition to the unconditional assistance provided to around 33,000 refugees inside settlements, WFP also provided conditional support for students attending primary schools and junior high schools.

Through WFP's school meals program, around 8,620 refugee school children (49 percent girls) at primary schools and junior high schools and their 610 Iranian teachers (30 percent women) received nutritious school snacks throughout the scholastic year.

The snacks included fortified milk and either a date bar or whole grain biscuit for every day of school attendance to support their education and nutrition.

Under the same program, around 2,900 girls at primary schools and junior high schools also received cash incentives to support their education in line with girl's empowerment.

Following the successful establishment of bakeries in some settlements in the past years, WFP supported equipping a bakery in 2023 in one settlement to improve the efficiency of the baking process and the quality of the bread for around 1,400 inhabitants of the settlement.

WFP's commitment to supporting the government of Iran's assistance response for crisis-affected populations was further reinforced by WFP's provision of locally procured emergency family food packs to around 9,780 Iranian people affected by an earthquake in Khoy City in May, through its cooperating partner, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).



The visually-impaired go hiking to mark physical education week

A group of visually-impaired persons went hiking on Thursday at the Tochal mountainous area in Tehran to mark the physical education week which is celebrated annually from October 17 to 23.



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OCTOBER 19, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you cannot get things as much as you desire than be contented with what you have.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:12 Evening: 18:33 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Paintings by Shirin Etehadieh are currently on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibit named "Separation" will run until October 28 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

* Kavin Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Zhila Moslehi.

The exhibit titled "Clowning" will be running until October 28 at the gallery located at No.24, Pesian St. Zaferanieh Neighborhood.



* A collection of paintings by Mahni Tazhibi is on view in an exhibition at Adapa Gallery.

The exhibition will run until November 6 at the gallery located at No. 5, Sumesara Alley, Sazesh St., Vali-e Asr Square.

* Sohrab Gallery is hanging a collection of paintings by Ali Khosrravi in an exhibition entitled "Pomegranate Garden".

The exhibit will run until November 4 at the gallery located at 142 Somayyeh St.

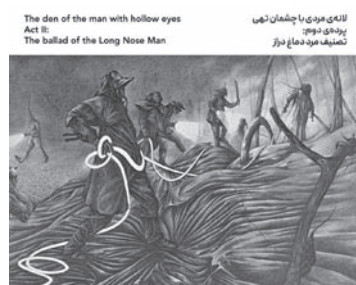


* Paintings by Kiumars Kiasat are currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibit will run until November 1 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

* An exhibition of paintings by Masoud Majzubi is currently underway at Didar Gallery.

The exhibition named "Retrospective" will run until October 25 at the gallery located at 10 Mobini Alley, Mofatteh St.



* Payam Qelichi is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "The Den of the Man with Hollow Eyes", the exhibit will run until October 28 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Bahnoush Momeni is on display in an exhibition at Artibition Projects Gallery.

The exhibit named "Innocent" will continue until October 26 at the gallery located at 61 Rezaei Alley, Shariati St.

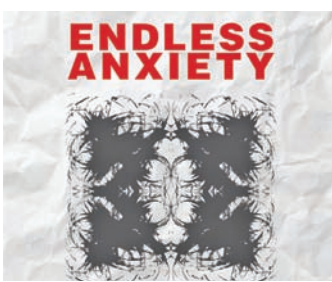


* Paintings by Ali Rostaeean Fard are currently on view in an exhibition at Atbin Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Flaneur" will continue until November 5 at the gallery located at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

* Paintings by Saeid Mahjubi are on view in an exhibition at CAMA - Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery.

Named "Endless Anxiety", the exhibit runs until October 23 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.



Sinwar's novel "The Thorn and the Carnation" to be published in Persian

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of martyred Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar's novel "The Thorn and the Carnation" will be published in Iran.

Translated by Hanieh Kamari, the book will soon be published by Soore Mehr Publication in Tehran.

Written during Sinwar's lengthy incarceration in Israeli prisons, "The Thorn and the Carnation" offers an intimate portrayal of the struggle and endurance of Palestinian people.

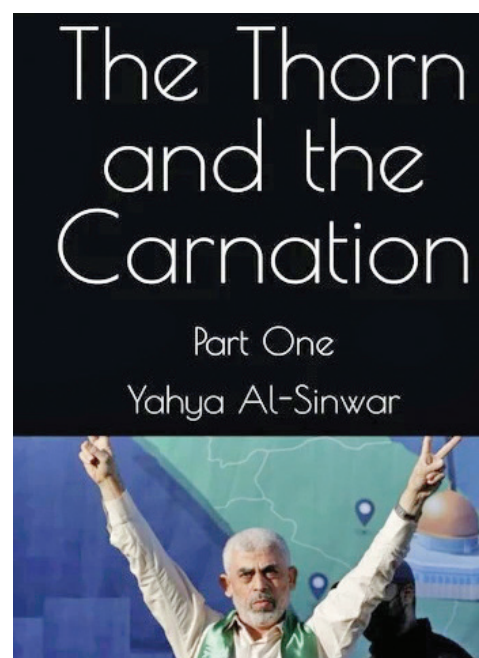
The book effectively blends fact and fiction to chronicle the Palestinian resistance from the aftermath of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, reflecting on themes of loss, perseverance, and hope amid the stark realities of occupation.

The novel opens with the heart-wrenching martyrdom of the protagonist's father and uncle, victims of Israeli soldiers. Sinwar's narrative skillfully sheds light on the psychological and emotional burdens borne by these families, utilizing rich imagery to depict the indomitable spirit of the Palestinian people. The protagonist's quest for justice represents a larger struggle—a fight not only against oppression but also for identity, dignity, and rights.

Among the book's most striking portrayals is the depiction of life in a Gaza prison, famously known as "the slaughterhouse." Sinwar describes harrowing scenes of torture and degradation, illustrating a system designed to break individuals rather than bodies.

Detainees are subjected to a variety of brutal tactics, including suffocation, beatings, and relentless psychological torment. Through these grim realities, Sinwar reveals the resilience that emerges in the darkest of times. Herein lies a poignant reminder of the human cost of conflict—a theme that reverberates throughout the narrative.

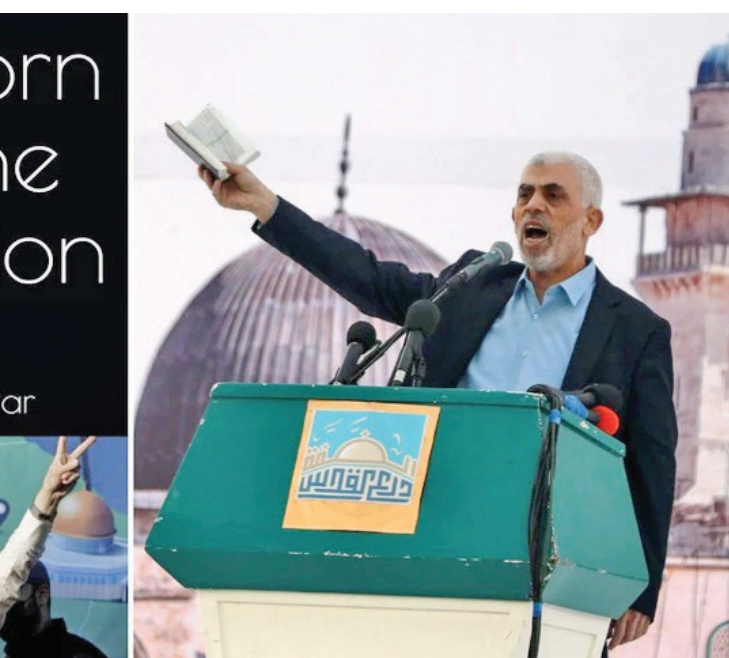
Sinwar's reflections resonate particularly when he exposes the conditions of administrative detention, where inmates are crammed into cramped quarters, deprived not only of freedom but also of basic human rights. In these dire circumstances, hunger strikes become a desperate act of defiance; prisoners endure starvation to reclaim their dignity and to demand the fundamental rights that have been systematically denied to them. This depiction of suffering



is not merely for dramatic effect—it serves as a testament to the strength and resolve of those who refuse to submit to a regime of oppression.

Moreover, the novel explores the insidious methods employed by the Israeli intelligence apparatus. Sinwar illustrates how the occupier infiltrates Palestinian communities, coercing individuals into becoming informants through threats or violence. This betrayal not only undermines the spirit of the resistance but also highlights the broader societal fractures caused by prolonged occupation. The tactical use of addiction and economic desperation serves not only as a control mechanism but as a grim narrative of exploitation that many Palestinians face.

Despite the pervasive violence and control, Sinwar emphasizes the unwavering commitment to education among Palestinians. During a time when Gaza lacked its own university, the Islamic University of Gaza emerged from the efforts of dedicated students who, against all odds, sought knowledge and empowerment. Among them is the character Ibrahim, modelled on Palestine Liberation Organization members and Hamas's founder, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. Ibrahim transforms from a student activist into a builder, demonstrating the unyielding determination of the youth to rise above occupation and claim their future. The institution becomes a symbol of resistance itself—a bastion of hope amidst the rubble of despair, where camaraderie is



galvanized through both academic and political struggles.

Sinwar's narrative is imbued with a profound sense of longing—a yearning for freedom encapsulated in the symbolism of carnations. These delicate flowers, often associated with fleeting moments of joy, stand juxtaposed against a backdrop of enduring hardship. The contrasting imagery serves as a powerful reminder of the resilience embedded within the Palestinian spirit, as individuals grapple with personal and collective trauma while clinging to the hope for liberation.

Notably, Sinwar does not shy away from the complexities of the Palestinian political landscape. He delves into themes of betrayal and conflict within resistance factions, capturing the intricate dynamics of cooperation and division among various Palestinian groups. The importance of unity in the face of a common adversary emerges as a critical theme, revealing that, despite their differences, Palestinians are bound by a shared desire for justice and self-determination.

Sinwar's literary prowess transcends mere political narrative, offering an intimate and humanizing portrayal of life under occupation. By focusing on individual stories of suffering and resilience, he connects with readers on an emotional level, allowing them to grasp the depth of the Palestinian experience beyond the headlines.

Sinwar's insights, garnered from personal experience and a diligent

study of Israeli strategies, infuse depth into the narrative, making it a compelling blend of history, pain, and hope. In July, Yahya Sinwar ascended to the leadership of Hamas as its political chief following the assassination of his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, in an Israeli strike in Tehran. Haniyeh had been actively engaging in international diplomacy aimed at achieving a ceasefire in Gaza since the onset of increased tensions on October 7, 2023. Sinwar is recognized as the architect of the 7 October attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Born in Khan Younis, Gaza, Sinwar earned a BA in Arabic Studies from the Islamic University of Gaza. An early member of Hamas, established by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in 1987, he became immersed in anti-occupation activism during his university years. Throughout the 1980s, he faced multiple imprisonments, ultimately being sentenced to four life terms in 1988 for his alleged involvement in attacks against Israeli forces.

During his incarceration, Sinwar mastered Hebrew and translated banned autobiographies of former Shin Bet leaders, indicating a commitment to education and preparation for future leadership. Released in 2011 as part of a prisoner exchange deal for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, Sinwar quickly rose through Hamas ranks. In 2021, he was re-elected and played a significant role in the Al-Quds Sword war. On Thursday, Israel announced its claim to have killed Sinwar, a statement that was confirmed by Hamas the following day.

Tehran's Vahdat Hall to host Bruckner's 200th anniversary concert

TEHRAN- On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner, Austrian composer and organist, Iranian KasteH Quartet and AISO Symphonic Orchestra will take the stage at Vahdat Hall on Sunday.

The performance will begin with the first movement of Bruckner's Symphony No. 7, Allegro Moderato, followed by the piece Deerland from the KasteH Quartet's new album in collaboration with the AISO Symphonic Orchestra, ILNA reported on Wednesday.

The KasteH Quartet has performed various concerts both inside and outside Iran over the past two years. Moreover, tickets for this event sold out within a day, the report added.

KasteH Quartet's fourth album, titled "Deerland," was recently unveiled in Europe and will soon be available to the public.

Last month, the KasteH Quartet performed in Spain, showcasing "Deerland" along with two pieces from their previous albums.

Joseph Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) was an

influential Austrian composer and organist renowned for his symphonic and sacred music. His masterpieces, particularly his symphonies, epitomize the late Austro-German Romantic period, characterized by a rich harmonic language, robust polyphony, and expansive length. Bruckner's symphonies are marked by dissonances, unexpected modulations, and wandering harmonies that helped shape the musical landscape of his time.

Bruckner's style diverged significantly from that of his contemporaries like Richard Wagner and Gustav Mahler. Unlike Wagner, who was known for his musical radicalism, Bruckner displayed a profound respect and humility towards other musicians, particularly Wagner. This contrast often leads to a complex understanding of his life and works. Critics, including Eduard Hanslick, often dismissed Bruckner's symphonies for their size and repetitive elements, challenging their structural coherence. However, his later admirers acknowledged the intricate logic and innovation within his compositions.

One notable aspect of Bruckner's career is his tendency to revise his works, resulting in multiple versions of his symphonies. This practice stemmed partly from his sensitivity to criticism, a trait that contributed to the so-called "Bruckner Problem," which refers to the debates surrounding the authenticity of his scores and the numerous revisions they underwent. Despite these controversies, his symphonies expanded the conventions of symphonic form, integrating complex themes and a unique orchestral palette - including the use of Wagner tubas in his later works.

Bruckner's profound spirituality is reflected in his sacred music, which encompasses Masses, motets, and the notable Te Deum. These compositions reveal his deep religious convictions and musical versatility. Today, Bruckner's symphonies are celebrated for their monumental scope and philosophical depth, securing his place as one of the great composers of the Romantic era. His works continue to challenge and inspire musicians and audiences alike, marking an enduring legacy in classical music.

Iranian short film "The Dream" competing in Belgium's Festival International Nature Namur

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "The Dream" directed by Alireza Sadeghi is competing in the 30th Festival International Nature Namur (FINN) that is underway in Namur, Belgium.

A production of Soureh Film Club, affiliated to the Art Bureau, the two-minute film is vying for the top

prize of the Amateur Films section of the festival, IRNA reported.

A synopsis for the 2024 short flick, as mentioned in the festival website, reads: Nothing is impossible with imagination.

Born in 1995, the Festival International Nature Namur is now the meeting place for the lovers

of nature and beautiful images, bringing together each year more than 35,000 spectators and visitors of all backgrounds.

With its four international competitions - photos, amateur films, professional films and ultra-short films - and its many outdoor activities, the FINN is now placed

among the five biggest European events of the kind, bringing together each year photographers and filmmakers from around the world. The festival is mostly related to nature and wildlife.

Having launched on October 11, the festival will conclude on October 20.